Meeting of States Parties

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Twenty-eighth Meeting
New York, 11–14 June 2018
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Other matters

Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the Meetings of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as observers

Note by the secretariat

1. At its twenty-sixth Meeting, the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea reviewed its practice under rule 18, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4), which provides that the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations that are invited to the Meeting may also participate as observers. The Meeting decided, in this connection, to align its practice concerning the participation of intergovernmental organizations as observers in its Meetings with that of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.

2. In view of the Meeting's decision, the present note draws upon the practice of ocean-related subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. It is noted that these subsidiary bodies routinely extend an invitation to specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions and intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs (see SPLOS/303, paras. 113–114, and SPLOS/316, para. 110).

3. Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly are listed in a document of the Assembly issued at every session (see A/INF/72/5/Rev.1 for the latest list). It is noted that the Assembly may decide in its future sessions to invite additional intergovernmental organizations to participate in the sessions and the work of the Assembly as observers.

4. The annex to the present note contains a list of intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs that have not received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

* SPLOS/L.79.

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5. Pursuant to its decision at the twenty-sixth Meeting and in order to align its practice concerning the participation of intergovernmental organizations as observers in its Meetings with that of ocean-related bodies of the General Assembly, the Meeting may wish to consider extending a standing invitation to those intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs as listed in the annex to the present note and as updated by the secretariat, as appropriate, in addition to the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations and the intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the Assembly.

Annex

Intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs that have not received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly

- Alliance of Small Island States
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
- Arab Maghreb Union
- Arctic Council
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
- Bay of Bengal Programme
- Benguela Current Commission
- Caribbean Development Bank
- Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization
- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
- Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
- Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
- Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South
- Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Council of the Baltic Sea States
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- European Investment Bank
- Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
- Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
- Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
- International Investment Bank
- International Mobile Satellite Organization
- International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
- International Whaling Commission
- Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission
- Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front
- Latin American Fisheries Development Organization
- Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa
- Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
- New Development Bank
- Nordic Council
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission
- North Pacific Marine Science Organization
- North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
- Organization for Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
- Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
- OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
- Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Pacific Salmon Commission
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
- Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
- Regional Fishery Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
- Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
- Secretariat of the Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances
- South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
- South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

- Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
- West African Development Bank